

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice, and add new claims 11-21, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) A botanic extract of *Litchi sinensis* comprising, based on active substance content, at least 15% by weight of an oligomeric proanthocyanidin of the OPC A2 type.

12. (New) The botanic extract of claim 11 wherein the oligomeric proanthocyanidin of the OPC A2 type is present in an amount by weight of from 20% to 25%.

13. (New) A process of obtaining at least 15% by weight, based on active substance content, of an oligomeric proanthocyanidin of the OPC A2 type from a botanic extract of *Litchi sinensis*, which process comprises:

- (a) extracting shells of *Litchi sinensis* with a lower aqueous aliphatic alcohol solvent;
- (b) subjecting the extract to a chromatographic separation, which separation forms an OPC A2-rich fraction;
- (c) subjecting the OPC A2-rich fraction to a liquid/liquid solvent extraction, which solvent extraction forms an aqueous phase and a water-immiscible phase; and
- (d) recovering the OPC A2-rich fraction of at least 15% by weight from the

water-immiscible phase.

14. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein from 20% to 25% by weight of the OPC A2 type is recovered.

15. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the lower aqueous aliphatic alcohol solvent in (a) contains methanol or ethanol, or a mixture thereof.

16. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein (a) is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 100°C.

17. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein (a) is carried out at a temperature of from 50 to 70°C.

18. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein (a) is carried out in the presence of an inert gas.

19. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein (b) is carried out in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of lower aliphatic alcohols containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or mixtures thereof.

20. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein (c) is carried out in the presence of a water-immiscible solvent.

21. (New) A composition for oral or cosmetic administration which comprises an extract of *Litchi sinensis* containing an effective amount by weight of an oligomeric proanthocyanidin of the OPC A2 type for inhibiting matrix metalloprotease activity and a carrier suitable for oral or cosmetic administration.